Initiative Summary for Board

CP has taken a stance on both the Colorado Marriage Amendment and the Domestic Partnership Referendum, but there are now two more recently proposed amendments relating to domestic partnerships on which CP should take a position. The first means to invalidate the Domestic Partnership referendum, and the second intends to protect the referendum.

Lundberg-Perkins Domestic Partnership Ban (Amendment 109)

Will Perkins and State Representative Kevin Lundberg have proposed a Colorado amendment in response to the Domestic Partnership referendum. This proposed amendment denies legal recognition, rights and benefits to any relationship deemed similar to marriage, which would include domestic partnerships. If this amendment passed, it would nullify the Domestic Partnership referendum. Many opponents of this newly proposed amendment are calling it the "Son of Amendment 2." Perkins and Lundberg are promoting discrimination against the entire GLBT community and attempting to thwart any chance of full equality for this community.

Domestic Partnership Amendment (Amendment 139)

This newest proposed amendment is an insurance policy intended to avoid the nullification of the Domestic Partnership referendum if the Lundberg-Perkins amendment were to pass. It declares that "domestic partnerships do not affect [and are not similar to] the institution of marriage between one man and one woman" and labels a domestic partnership "as a unique and valid relationship between eligible adults of the same sex" (http://www.elections.colorado.gov). This proposed amendment categorizes domestic partnerships as separate from and dissimilar to marriage so that the Lundberg-Perkins amendment would not be able to invalidate the Domestic Partnership referendum.

The Domestic Partnership amendment is needed to protect domestic partnerships from being immediately banned by the Lundberg-Perkins amendment. Although this amendment may sound like discrimination since it is clearly labeling domestic partnership as separate from traditional marriage, it is attempting to encourage steps toward equality for the GLBT community by allowing domestic partnerships to be permitted.